

Erika Ahern

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to write expressing my strong opposition to H.B. No. 6645, AN ACT CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

The title of the bill is in itself an overstated euphemism: Compassion towards the elderly, chronically ill, and suffering is not best expressed in a prescription for a lethal drug. I hope that the resources originally intended by the bill's writers could instead be allocated towards training physicians and nursing staff in better pain management skills, physical therapy measures, and general palliative care.

Finally, introducing physician-assisted suicide into any society by means of law carries with it a dangerous acceptance of all forms of suicide. If my grandmother suffering from terminal bone cancer can commit suicide (and is even perhaps encouraged to commit suicide by her physicians and family), what is there to prevent a young woman with fibromyalgia from ending her suffering as well?

Suffering is a part of every human life. The solution to end-of-life suffering is not to hasten the end of life, but to make those last days worth living.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Erika Ahern

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